

SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
THE YEAR 1920

BY
S. T. COCHRANE, M.O.H.

INCLUDING THE
Annual Report of the Inspector of Nuisances

BY
GEORGE POLLARD, C.R.S.I.

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SWADLINCOTE
DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report
FOR 1920.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1920.

Situation.

The District is situated in the extreme south of the County of Derby, in N. lat. : 52°4', W. long : 1°38'.

The mean elevation is about 250 feet above sea level.

Geology.

Throughout the whole district there is a clay sub-soil, with coal at various depths.

Area.

The total area of the district is 3,670 acres, five of these being water.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909 & 1919.

Nature of Defects.

Houses with badly ventilated living and sleeping rooms, defective drainage, roofs, spoutings, yard pavings, decayed plastering on walls and ceilings, damp walls, want of sink stones and waste pipes for carrying off refuse water, offensive privies and large open ash pits in proximity to dwellings.

The number of houses in which such defects have been remedied is 34. Only one house was built during the year.

Population.

The population to the middle of the year has been estimated at 19,807.

Birth Rate.

The number of births registered during the year was 562, viz. : Males, 283 ; Females, 279. The birth rate was 28.37 per 1,000. The average for the three years prior to the war was 28.50 per 1,000. Illegitimate births, 11 males, 8 females.

Death Rate.

The number of deaths was 199, viz : Males, 112 ; Females, 87. This gives a death rate of 10 per 1,000. The average death rate for the three years previous to the war was 12.12 per 1,000. The number of deaths from 65 years and upwards was 75, giving a death rate of 3.79 per 1,000. Deaths of infants under one year of age were 42, viz. :

25 males and 17 females, giving an infantile mortality of 76.5. The average for the three years prior to the war was 106.25.

This is the lowest infantile death rate ever recorded for the district and is to a great extent due to the effort of those responsible for the management of the Mothers' Welcome.

**Zymotic
Death Rate.**

The number of deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases (small pox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough and epidemic diarrhoea), was 18, giving a death rate of .9. The average death rate from zymotic cause for the three years prior to the war was 1.38.

**Tuberculous
Death Rate.**

The number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis was 8, giving a death rate of .4. This is about the same rate as the pre-war average. Tuberculous diseases other than phthisis caused six deaths.

Cancer.

Cancer and other malignant diseases account for 20 deaths. This is a slight increase on pre-war figures.

**Infectious
Disease.**

The number of infectious diseases notified during the year is as follows :—

Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	42
Erysipelas	15
Scarlet Fever	47
Enteric Fever	2
Puerperal Fever	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Ante Anterio Polio Myilitis	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	39
Other forms of Tuberculous Disease	13
Pneumonia	63
	—
	227

Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases reported was 47, but no death resulted.

Diphtheria.

Three deaths occurred from this disease, while 42 were notified.

In all cases the infected houses were visited and instructions given for isolation of the sufferers.

Anti toxin was freely used and proved of great benefit.

The rooms of patients were thoroughly disinfected at the termination of the case.

Measles.

Six deaths occurred from this cause or complication of the disease.

Erysipelas One death was caused by erysipelas.

Whooping Cough. Six deaths were caused by this complaint.

Diarrhoea and Enteritis. Two deaths were caused by this disease.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia. Fifteen deaths were caused by bronchitis. Pneumonia accounted for 13.

Occupational Mortality. Our industries are collieries, sanitary pipe works and potteries. The health of the workers is satisfactory. No case of lead poisoning was reported during the year.

Milk Supply. There are 38 dairies, cowsheds and milk shops on the register. All have been repeatedly inspected and where necessary improvements and alterations have been made.

Other foods have been examined from time to time and 2,072 lbs. of English beef, 70 lbs. frozen beef, 316 lbs. of fat, 21 livers, 8 sets of bellies and 5 hearts have been condemned. 28 tins of fruit, 19 of fish and 222 of tomatoes were declared unfit for sale.

Water Supply. The water supply is good, being sufficient in amount and free from pollution.

Sewage and Drainage. The sewage system of the district is good, the water supply being sufficient and the arrangements at the farm carried out in an efficient manner.

The scavenging is satisfactory and all complaints are quickly attended to.

The work of converting the old privies into W.C.'s still goes forward, though delayed owing to the conditions under which we are at present suffering. The number converted during the twelve months was 30, while 20 replaced old privies.

Schools. At intervals I have inspected the schools and I am glad to report a satisfactory condition of all.

Slaughter Houses. There are 21 slaughter houses in use at the present time. All are satisfactory.

Factory and Workshop Acts. There are 135 workshops and factories on the register; all are in good condition, the space, ventilation and lighting being satisfactory.

I have by monthly and other reports kept you informed of the health of your district.

I am, yours obediently,

S. T. COCHRANE, M.O.H.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report, 1920.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
SWADLINCOTE,
February, 1921,

To the Chairman and Members of the Swadlincote District
Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have much pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Ninth Annual Report, showing the work done in the Sanitary Department of your Council during the year 1920.

The Report is on similar lines to those of previous years, this being necessary for comparison and future reference.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

90 cases of Infectious Diseases have been notified to me by the Medical Officer of Health as against 209 last year, the difference being accounted for by the removal of Measles from the list of notifiable diseases.

In all cases the infected houses were visited, particulars of the diseases taken, instructions given as to the best methods of isolating the patients and precautions to take to prevent the spread of the diseases.

After recovery or otherwise of the patients the infected rooms were fumigated with Formaldehyde gas, and instructions given for the rooms and clothing to be thoroughly washed and cleansed, liquid disinfectant and soap being supplied free by the Council for these purposes.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER.

During the year one Consumptive Shelter was erected at 48 Station Street, Church Gresley, and two Shelters removed to the Council's Depot from 8 Church Street, Swadlincote, and 31 Dalston Road, Newhall. A special ventilating window was fixed in a bedroom at 6 Colliery Row. Seven rooms have been fumigated after deaths from various forms of the diseases, and 23 persons regularly supplied with soap and liquid disinfectant.

HOUSES AND TOWN PLANNING ACTS, 1909 & 1919.

No. of houses inspected under Section 17	...	...	182
No. of houses unfit for habitation	...	...	nil
No. of representations made to the Local Authority	...	...	nil
No. of closing orders made under Section 17	...	...	nil
No. of houses closed without closing orders being made...			nil
No. of houses demolished	...	...	nil
No. of dwelling houses, the defects of which were remedied under Section 15	...	...	nil
No. of houses rendered fit for habitation after closing orders have been made...	...	...	nil
No. of dwelling houses, the defects of which were remedied by Preliminary Notices and by Statutory Notices served under Section 28 of the Housing and Town Planning Act 1919, and the Public Health Act 1875			34
No. of new houses built to replace houses demolished	...		nil
No. of new houses built during the year	...	...	1

NATURE OF DEFECTS FOUND.

Houses with badly ventilated living and sleeping rooms, defective drainage, roofs, spoutings, yard pavings, living, bedroom and wash-house floors, perished plaster on walls and ceilings, damp walls and ceilings, want of sink stones and waste pipes for carrying off refuse water from the houses. Houses with inconvenient water supplies; offensive privies and large open ash pits in close proximity to the house.

INSPECTION OF HOUSES UNDER THE HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

182 houses have been inspected as follows: 31 in Swadlincote, 83 in Church Gresley, and 68 in Newhall preliminary notices were served on the owners of the houses, these being followed, where necessary, by Statutory Notices served under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning Act, 1919. This section gives a Local Authority power to carry out the work themselves and recover the costs incurred thereby from the owner or the tenant.

No closing order was made against any house during the year. At 123 to 133 Council Road, Stanton, new sculleries, water closets and coal houses were built to replace dilapidated wash-houses, pail closets and coal-houses; structural alterations were also

carried out at 129 Council Road. The repairs started some few years ago and left in abeyance during the war at 60 to 74 Common Road, Church Gresley, have been completed, the houses having been thoroughly repaired both inside and out, new sink stones and coppers fixed inside, town water laid over the sink stones and water closets fixed in other available buildings in lieu of the privies. Similar repairs and improvements were carried out at 65 and 67 Oxford Street, Church Gresley. In all, the number of houses that have been put into a reasonable state of repair was 34.

There are a large number of cottages in this district owned by people with very limited income, which are in a very bad state of repair, and I experience great difficulty in getting any repairs or improvements carried out. Some means should be adopted to help this class of owner, as there is no possibility of any improvement in their financial circumstances taking place.

One dwelling house was erected during the past year, namely, a wooden bungalow near the Alexandra Picture Palace.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

430 visits have been paid to supervise drainage and sanitary improvements which have been carried out in various parts of the district. Special attention has been given to the work, and property owners advised as to the best and most economical manner in which sanitary improvements could be effected.

Taking into consideration the high prices of building materials and the cost of labour, there has been a marked improvement in the number of sanitary defects remedied and the nuisances abated than in former years, and it is hoped that this will be more than increased during the ensuing year.

31 privies have been converted into water closets at 37 and 39 Vicarage Road, and the Railway Inn, Swadlincote. 44 Regent Street, 63—65 and 67 Wilmot Road, 60 to 70 Lansdowne Road, 98 Princess Street, 16 and 18 John Street, 51 Wood Street, 168 and 170 Oxford Street, and 59 Windmill Street, Church Gresley. 81, 83, 85, 111, and 150 to 156 Council Road, Stanton; 117 and 119 Park Road, and one at Thorn Tree House, Newhall.

20 new water closets have been erected in lieu of privies at 1, 3 and 5 Vicarage Road, Swadlincote, 65 and 67 Oxford Street, 51 Station Street, 34, 36 and 38 Common Side and 27 Market Street, Church Gresley, 105 and 121 to 133 Council Road, Stanton, 49 and 63 Oversetts Road, and one at the Queen's Head, Newhall.

28 water closets have been fixed in other available buildings in lieu of privies at 2 and 4 Frederick Street, 114 to 126 Swadlincote Road, 46 to 52 and 88 to 90 Bernard Street, Swadlincote, 40 and 42 Regent Street, 60 to 74 Common Road, Church Gresley, 1 Council Road, Stanton, and 65 and 67 Oversetts Road and one at Cooper's Joinery works, Newhall.

Additional water closets have been fixed at the Coal Miners Arms and the Wesleyan Chapel, Swadlincote, the Rising Sun, Church Gresley and one at the Jolly Colliers, Newhall. Also one in connection with the new bungalow adjoining the Alexandra Picture Palace.

SUMMARY.

Privies converted into water closets	-	-	-	30
New water closets built in lieu of privies	-	-	-	20
Water closets fixed in other available buildings in lieu of privies	-	-	-	28
Additional water closets provided	-	-	-	4
Water closets provided to new houses	-	-	-	1
Water closets provided to factories and workshops	-	-	-	2
			Total	85
Water closets re-drained and re-fixed	-	-		2
Length of 6 inch drain pipe laid	-	-		119 yards.
Length of 4 inch drain pipe laid	-	-		809 yards.
No. of trapped gullies fixed	-	-		60
No. of ventilating shafts fixed	-	-		30
No. of inspection chambers built	-	-		32
No. of new connections made to Council's sewers				2
No. of rodding eyes and inspection pipes fixed	-	-		3

OTHER SANITARY DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Galvanized iron dust bins provided	-	-	-	40
Defective house drains repaired	-	-	-	2
Defective water closets drains repaired	-	-	-	2
Stopped house drains cleansed	-	-	-	12
Stopped water closet drains cleansed	-	-	-	10
Defective spouts repaired	-	-	-	41
Defective fall pipes repaired	-	-	-	19
Defective house roofs repaired	-	-	-	35

Defective wash house roofs repaired	-	-	-	4
Defective closet roofs repaired	-	-	-	5
Defective living room floors repaired	-	-	-	49
Defective bedroom floors repaired	-	-	-	13
Defective brickwork and pointing repaired	-	-	-	45
Defective plaster on walls repaired	-	-	-	114
Defective ceilings repaired	-	-	-	32
Defective windows repaired	-	-	-	15
Defective yard pavings repaired	-	-	-	48
Defective pantries repaired	-	-	-	10
New sink stones fixed	-	-	-	28
New sink waste pipes fixed	-	-	-	31
New water closet basins fixed	-	-	-	4
New water closet cisterns fixed	-	-	-	7
New kitchen grates fixed	-	-	-	5
New coppers fixed	-	-	-	5
New windows fixed	-	-	-	30
New sculleries built	-	-	-	6
New pantries built	-	-	-	1
New doors fixed	-	-	-	5
New sitting room grates fixed	-	-	-	1
New water closet seats fixed	-	-	-	4
Dirty houses cleansed	-	-	-	2
Dirty closets cleansed	-	-	-	30
Walls cemented	-	-	-	6
Town water fixed inside houses	-	-	-	27
Defective coal house roofs repaired	-	-	-	3
Living room windows made to open	-	-	-	25
Houses re-drained	-	-	-	11
Other nuisances remedied	-	-	-	70
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		Total	-	797
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NOTICES.

298 preliminary notices and 108 Statutory notices under Section 28 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919 and 26 Statutory notices under Section 36 of the Public Health Act, 1875, have been served upon owners of property asking them to carry out the necessary work to remedy sanitary defects existing on their property and 80 letters and 210 post cards have been written in connection with the above notices and other work coming under my department. Also 180 letters and post cards have been received, and 110 appointments with owners and contractors kept.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 21 slaughter houses in use at the present time, being one less than last year, during the past year there has been no change of tenancy. 834 visits have been paid to these premises, and on no occasion has it been necessary to call the attention of the occupants to any serious breach of the bye-laws. March and September are the months set apart in the bye-laws for the lime washing and cleansing of such, the occupants being notified by post cards to that effect and it is a rare occurrence that a second intimation is necessary.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The inspection of meat and other food stuffs have taken up a considerable part of my time, as may be seen by the number of visits, viz., 834 paid to the Slaughter-houses in the district, these being made during the process of slaughtering or as soon after as possible.

Up to the 30th of June, 1920, the cattle and sheep were supplied to the butchers through an allocation committee, the supplies at times being often very limited and of poor quality. Since meat control was removed there has been a plentiful supply, the quality of which has been excellent.

On 26 occasions I have been requested by butchers to inspect carcasses of beef and the organs of animals connected therewith which were more or less affected with tuberculosis and other forms of diseases; also on 13 occasions by traders other articles of food stuffs.

The total amount surrendered to me for disposal was 2,072 lbs. of English beef, 70 lbs. of frozen beef, 316 lbs. of fat, 21 beasts' livers, 8 sets of bellies, 5 hearts, 28 tins of fruit, 19 of fish, 222 of tomatoes, 2 of corned beef, 2 of tongue, 10 of milk and 1 barrel of herrings.

In fairness to the butchers it should be stated that most of the English beef condemned was what is known in the trade as casualty meat, that is meat of animals in poor condition or having to be slaughtered owing to injuries received. One of the local butchers held a licence from the Live Stock Commissioner to deal with this class of meat. This has now lapsed, and with the class of meat the butchers are now buying there will undoubtedly be less condemned in the future than has been the case during the last few years.

On 16 other occasions I have been asked by the manager of the Maypole Dairy Company, Limited, to inspect kegs and casks of butter which showed signs of blue mould, rendering the parts affected unfit to sell by retail at scheduled market prices. The amount so certified was 217 lbs., which was clarified and used for confectionery purposes.

MARKETS.

I have paid 32 visits to the markets held on Saturday nights and have inspected the food stuffs offered for sale, the class of which compares favourably with that sold in markets of a similar character and called for no interference on my part.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 19 offensive trades carried on in the district, viz. :— one knacker's yard and 18 fried fish shops. During the year one licence was granted to start the business of fish frying in Princess Street, Castle Gresley.

Frequent visits have been paid to these premises and strict cleanliness of the cooking pans, hoods, utensils and rooms and the proper disposal of fish and potato refuse insisted on. I have received no complaint as to any nuisance arising therefrom, or offensive smells emanating from same. The occupants endeavour to carry on their business as hygienically as possible.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS.

The number of cowsheds in the district in which milking cows are kept is 38, and the number of cows housed therein is 227. The milk from one cowshed is sent to London and out of the district from two others, the remainder being disposed of locally. May and October are the months set apart in the Council's bye-laws for the limewashing and cleansing of these premises and the buildings connected therewith, the tenants of which are notified to that effect at the beginning of the respective months.

158 visits have been paid during the year and the importance of keeping their premises clean and complying with the bye-laws and regulations insisted upon.

SALE OF FOOD & DRUGS ACTS.

25 samples of milk were purchased from 20 different sellers and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis ; with one exception they were all reported by him to be genuine samples of milk ; the one exception referred to was deficient in milk fats. A special report on this sample was presented to the Highways, Buildings and Sewerage Committee, who, after carefully considering all the facts of the case, decided not to take legal proceedings, the clerk being instructed to write a warning letter to the vendor.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

There are 36 factories, 82 workshops and 17 bakehouses on the register at the present time to which I have paid 210 visits. All complaints reported to me by the Factory Inspectors also any infringements of the Acts found at the time of my inspections were reported to and dealt with by the owners or occupants of the premises. The bakehouses were limewashed during the months of April and October. One bakehouse in Newhall has been closed.

At Woodwards brickyard, Robin Hood Place, a messroom with a water closet fixed in an adjoining room was provided for the use of the female employees. At Cooper's joinery works, Newhall, a privy was converted into a water closet.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

As in former years a considerable part of my time has been devoted to district inspection, which included the inspections of yards, privies, ashpits, water closets, piggeries, etc. During the year I inspected 3,706 privies, 2,187 water closets, 3,719 ashpits, 139 ash-bins and 668 pigsties, and reported for cleansing 625 privies and 300 ashpits ; also 41 leakages of water to the water department, these being burst pipes, defective bib and ball taps.

80 water closets have been provided in lieu of privies, the total number provided since I took up the duties of the office being 497, and 407 dust bins have replaced dilapidated, offensive and open ashpits or defective dust bins and other forms of receptacles.

To encourage occupants to keep their sanitary conveniences and outhouses in a cleanly state the Committee continued as in past years the free distribution of lime for these purposes. This concession is much appreciated, and I receive a large number of applications for tickets to enable householders to procure a supply.

SUMMARY OF THE NATURE AND NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE.

Houses visited for infectious diseases	-	-	-	90
Houses revisited for infectious diseases	-	-	-	6
Houses disinfected after infectious diseases	-	-	-	94
Rooms stoved to get rid of vermin	-	-	-	5
Slaughter houses inspected	-	-	-	834
Bakehouses inspected	-	-	-	89
Foodshops inspected	-	-	-	56
Cowsheds inspected	-	-	-	158
Factories inspected	-	-	-	76
Workshops inspected	-	-	-	45
Offensive trade (Knackers Yards)	-	-	-	31
Fried fish shops inspected	-	-	-	12
Fish stores inspected	-	-	-	10
Urinals inspected	-	-	-	136
Vans used as dwellings inspected	-	-	-	2
Yards and passages inspected	-	-	-	35
Privies inspected	-	-	-	3706
Water closets inspected	-	-	-	2187
Ashpits inspected	-	-	-	3719
Ash bins inspected	-	-	-	139
Ditches and water courses inspected	-	-	-	5
Pigsties inspected	-	-	-	668
Accumulations of manure inspected	-	-	-	77
Drainage, housing and sanitary improvements inspected	-			430
Houses inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Act	-	-	-	182
Appointments with property owners kept	-	-	-	74
Appointments with contractors kept	-	-	-	36
Complaints received and attended to	-	-	-	216
Visits paid to outstanding nuisances	-	-	-	182
Visits paid to the markets	-	-	-	32
Miscellaneous visits paid	-	-	-	157
				<hr/>
		Total	-	13489
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In conclusion, I beg to thank the members of the Highways, Buildings and Sewerage Committee for the help they have given me in the discharge of my duties.

Yours obediently,

GEORGE POLLARD.